

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-06 AGR-05 EB-07 DLOS-04 /099 W

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P R 130220Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7083

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EFIS KS GJ

SUBJ: GRENADA PRIMIN GAIRY VISITS ROK

REF: BRIDGETOWN 763

1. THE ROK ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET FOR GRENADA'S PRIME MINISTER ERIC M. GAIRY DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE ROK APRIL 28- MAY 2. VISIT RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS OF GAIRY RECEIVING MEDAL FROM PRESIDENT PAK CHUNG-HUI APRIL 30, BEING MET AT AIRPORT BY PRIME MINISTER CHOI KYU-HA AND CONFERRING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT HIS CAPITOL BUILDING OFFICES. GAIRY ALSO MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND WAS TREATED TO A ROUND OF ENTERTAINMENT AND SIGHTSEEING BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT DURING A VISIT IN WHICH THE KOREANS WERE CLEARLY TRYING TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON THIS LEADER OF A COUNTRY WITH A TOTAL POPULATION THE SIZE OF ONE OF SEOUL'S SMALLER SUB-DISTRICTS.

2. GAIRY AND THE KOREAN LEADERS WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE, WITH GAIRY REPORTED IN ROK PRESS AFTER HIS APRIL 29 MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AS PLEDGING GRENADA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. ACCORDING TO MOFA LATIN AMERICAN DIVISION
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CHIEF HWANG YONG-CHAE, ROK AGREED TO TRAIN TWO OR THREE GRENADIANS

IN THE FISHERIES BUSINESS, TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TWO OR THREE GRENADIAN STUDENTS, AND TO SEND AN ECONOMIC SURVEY TEAM TO STUDY THE HOST OF PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE GAIKY MADE DURING HIS VISIT. AMONG THESE PROPOSALS, ACCORDING TO HWANG, WERE WIRE NET TO BE USED FOR SOIL CONSERVATION, AIRPORT, HARBOR AND ROAD NETWORK CONSTRUCTION, STORAGE BINS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND PROVISION OF GRADERS, BULLDOZERS AND TRUCKS. FISHERIES COOPERATION ALSO FORMED AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE PROPOSED ECONOMIC COOPERATION PACKAGE, AND HWANG SAID FIVE PEOPLE REPRESENTING COMMERCIAL FISHING INTERESTS HAVE BEEN SENT FROM ROK TO DO A SURVEY FOR A JOINT VENTURE. HWANG SAID THAT THE ROK DOES NOT EXPECT MUCH RETURN EXCEPT FROM THE FISHERIES, BUT THAT THEY EXPECT THAT GAIKY WILL ACT AS AN ADVOCATE OF THE ROK POSITION AMONG HIS CARIBBEAN COLLEAGUES, ESPECIALLY SUCH EMERGING STATES AS ANTIQUA, ST. LUCIA AND DOMINICA. THUS ROK ASSISTANCE IS DESIGNED TO SERVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC ROK INTERESTS, AND REFLECTS A CONTINUING ROK DESIRE TO COMPETE WITH NORTH KOREA IN THE CARIBBEAN.

3. ROK FISHERIES INTERESTS, ANXIOUS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE LARGELY UNTAPPED SEAFOOD RESOURCES AROUND GRENADA HAVE EXPRESSED SOME DISSATISFACTION TO EMBOFF ABOUT ROKG MONOPOLIZING GAIKY'S TIME WHILE HE WAS IN KOREA. ROK FISHING COMPANIES ARE ATTRACTED, INTER ALIA, BY THE LOBSTER AND ABALONE WHICH REPORTEDLY ABOUND IN GRENADIAN WATERS AND APPARENTLY BELIEVE THEY CAN, BY AGREEING TO GIVE THE GRENADIANS ALL THE FLYING FISH THE KOREANS CATCH, SECURE THE COMMERCIALLY MORE LUCRATIVE BALANCE OF THE CATCH FOR THEMSELVES. KOREANS ALSO BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE A DEAL TO USE DOLE FISH PROCESSING PLANT IN THE AREA TO PROCESS THEIR CATCH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PFOR EFIS KS GJ, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL03532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760185-0027
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760558/aaaabxij.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRIDGETOWN 763
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GRENADA PRIMIN GAIRY VISITS ROK
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, OVIP, KS, GJ, (GAIRY, ERIC M)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BRIDGETOWN USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006